



2025 Catalogue

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Based in Manchester and inspired by Factory Records and the acid house revolution, **Backstage Books** was founded in 2023 by fashion tycoon Anthony Donnelly of GioGoi and veteran music biographer Simon Spence, with a focus on making books about music, fashion, and art. Backstage Books are an invitation to cultural history and the insider experiences of icons shaping the biggest movements and still influencing streetwear, club couture and music today.

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#Art #Memoir

ROBIN BANKSY

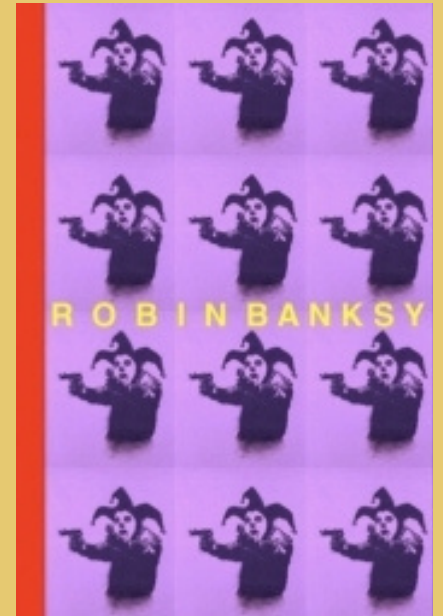
A Tale of Two Robins

Robin Barton

'Offers an insider's view into the secretive world of Banksy'
—*Louder Than War*

'A great memoir'—**Juliette Lewis, actress**

'The stuff of legend'—**Nick Moran, actor and filmmaker**



April 2025



Robin Barton, aka **BANKROBBER**, international arts dealer and former celebrity photographer, spent most of his newspaper career in New York where he documented the lives of famous actors such as Sir Alec Guinness, the star of the English television series *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*. The 55-year-old now owns the Bankrobber London art gallery in Mayfair.

Available Rights

NA English, Translation,
Dramatic

Robin Banksy is a thirty-year romp through London's art world seen through the eyes of its narrator—a thirsty and ambitious, fame-hungry photographer-turned-art-dealer. Hellbent on making mischief, Robin accidentally finds himself pitched against the global phenomenon artist and activist BANKSY. Ditching a successful career as a celebrity portraitist following an unfortunate drinking incident, he opens a hopelessly ill-thought-out, niche art gallery 'Bankrobber' in London's fashionable Notting Hill Gate and is naively coerced into displaying a street work by the revered artist, resulting in a tidal wave of threats and abuse. Following a threatening call from the artists 'Girl Friday,' demanding he cease and desist, he chooses instead to pick up the proffered gauntlet, putting in play a 'Cat and Mouse' game that was to last a decade. A rollercoaster ride littered with lawsuits, litigation and mischievous obfuscation.

Robin subverting the artist's famed anonymity to his own ends creates a smokescreen of doubt and duplicity that brings to question both he and his nemesis' true motifs and identity. Casting himself as the villainous 'Sheriff of Notting-Hill Gate' pitted against Banksy's 'Robin Hood' there follows a chaotic and bizarre journey that sees him visiting Palestine, Long Island and Miami in his avaricious quest. Littered throughout the memoir are anecdotes and observations on how the 'Art World' was successfully hijacked by exiled city traders—turned into the money laundering 'Art Market' of today—all set against the background of a London of lost drinking dens and louche behavior.

#Music #Biographies

FEELING SUPERSONIC

From Madchester to Britpop

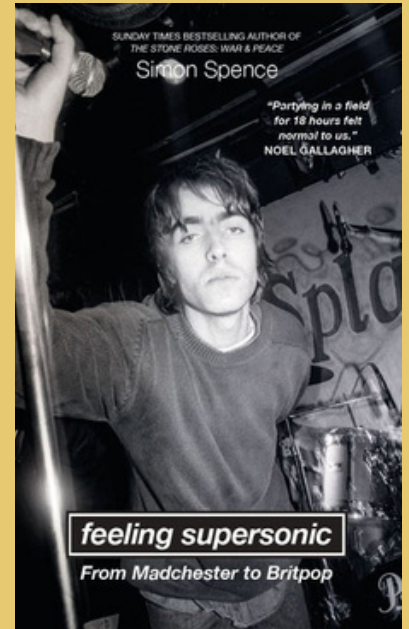
Simon Spence

'No one's been brave enough to write the real story.'

—Noel Gallagher

'We helped create the new Manchester, Oasis exported it brilliantly'

—Anthony Donnelly, GioGoi



November 2024



Simon Spence has previously written a Manchester trilogy of books: *The Stone Roses: War & Peace*, *Happy Mondays: Excess All Areas* and *Still Breathing* with Anthony and Christopher Donnelly. He's now the co-founder of Backstage Books, a UK-based underground music-fashion-pop culture press. Spence has written for the *NME*, *The Face*, *i-D*, *Dazed & Confused*, *Arena*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Big Issue*, *What's On*, *Q*, *Mojo*, *Japan Times*, *Manchester Evening News*, *Penguin*, *Secker & Warburg*, *Heyne*, *Warner Bros*, *St Martin's Press*, *Constable*, *Omnibus* and *Jawbone* and been published in seven languages. He has lived in Manchester since 1996.

Available Rights

NA English, Audio,
Translation, Dramatic

Feeling Supersonic is a compendium, a celebration and a roadmap to the remarkable career of Oasis: including never-before-seen coverage of Britain's most notable band of the past three decades.

Further contributions include Noel Gallagher, Ian Brown, GioGoi, New Order, Reni, Happy Mondays, Pulp, Primal Scream, The Farm and John Squire plus many more.

Feeling Supersonic includes a brand new and exclusive extract from an unpublished biography of Liam Gallagher, stellified in the white-hot heat of Knebworth 1996 and original photographs from Roger Sargent and Jill Furmanovsky.

#Music #Memoir

PADLOCKS

Living with Sid & Nancy

Den Browne

'Completely convincing... every page is interesting'

—Greil Marcus ('Mystery Train')

'Violence, famous cameos and sex'—Pat Gilbert (*Mojo*)

'Presents Nancy in a more humane, intellectual way than the usual fare'

—Nina Antonia ('In Cold Blood')

'Music book of 2023. A triumph'—*Louder Than War*

'Loving dissection of the band's early years... smart and thorough'

—Victoria Segal (*Mojo*)



February 2024



Den Brown is a veteran counterculture writer; the man who Tony Wilson said 'turned him on to punk'. Sid Vicious & Nancy Spungen came to live with him in London as Sid joined the Sex Pistols. His admirers include Melanie Smith of Mudkiss, Vic Godard of Subway Sect and JC Carroll of the Members, and writers including Greil Marcus, Zoe Howe, Nina Antonia have sung his praises. He collaborated for radio shows on Resonance FM and is a podcast favorite. He lives —free of heroin addiction—on an English hill with two greyhounds and his long-term partner. *Padlocks* is his first book.

Available Rights

NA English, Audio,
Translation, Dramatic

Summer 1977. A chance ring at the door. Punk's most notorious couple need to score and they've come to the right place.

Two couples, two beds, one cat, one room and a TV; the junkie life is laid bare as Sid & Nancy move in; bonding over books, music and the eternal quest for the next hit.

From *Never Mind The Bollocks* to 'Holidays In the Sun', this is the story of the Pistols observed up close by Den Browne, the man who Tony Wilson claimed 'turned him onto punk'.

As the Pistols descend into chaos so does Sid: from witty, committed, idealistic musician into drunken, knife-wielding, tabloid hate figure.

Padlocks is an unflinching account of living with Sid Vicious and Nancy Spungen in the eye of the media storm.

#Music #Biography

DEPECHE MODE: VINCE

Simon Spence

‘Sex and spirituality’—**Peter Ross**

‘The best Depeche Mode biography so far’—**The Guardian**

‘Impressive’—**The Quietus**

‘A remarkable effort’—**Record Collector**

‘A special kind of pop biography’—**Der Spiegel**



June 2024



Simon Spence has previously written a Manchester trilogy of books: *The Stone Roses: War & Peace*, *Happy Mondays: Excess All Areas* and *Still Breathing* with Anthony and Christopher Donnelly. He's now the co-founder of Backstage Books, a UK-based underground music-fashion-pop culture press. Spence has written for the *NME*, *The Face*, *i-D*, *Dazed & Confused*, *Arena*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Big Issue*, *What's On*, *Q*, *Mojo*, *Japan Times*, *Manchester Evening News*, *Penguin*, *Secker & Warburg*, *Heyne*, *Warner Bros*, *St Martin's Press*, *Constable*, *Omnibus* and *Jawbone* and been published in seven languages. He has lived in Manchester since 1996.

Four boys who grew up in the experimental ‘New Town’ of Basildon in the late 70s on a diet of Kraftwerk and Essex soul produced what founder Vince Clarke called ‘ultrapop’. In the words of Depeche Mode singer Dave Gahan, ‘a new kind of band from a new kind of town.’

After writing debut album *Speak & Spell* and hit single ‘Just Can’t Get Enough’, Clarke left to start Yazoo with Basildon’s Alison Moyet. She is interviewed here alongside the band’s closest friends for a book that tells how these Basildon teenagers went from the church to the charts.

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NA English, Audio,
Translation, Dramatic

IMMEDIATE

The Rise and Fall of the UK's First Independent Record Label

Simon Spence

'Small but perfectly formed'—**Mark Ellen**

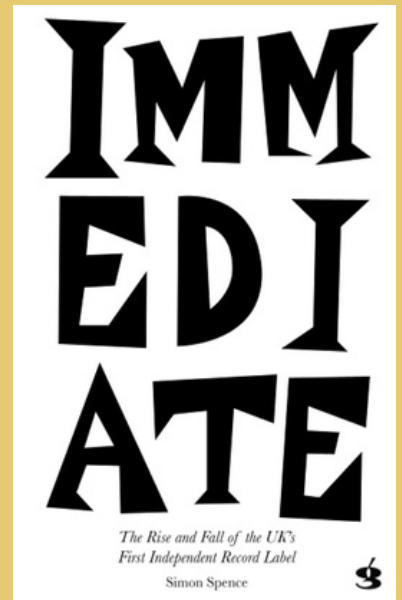
'A fantastic read'—**David Hepworth**

'One of the greatest accounts of Sixties rock 'n' roll'—**The Independent**

'A great contemporary take on Gonzo'—**Mark Hodgkinson**

'Essential reading for the sharp dresser'—**Mojo**

'Spence, collaborator on *Stoned*, delivers the lowdown on the controversial and prestigious British record label'—**Waterstones**



November 2023



Simon Spence has previously written a Manchester trilogy of books: *The Stone Roses: War & Peace*, *Happy Mondays: Excess All Areas* and *Still Breathing* with Anthony and Christopher Donnelly. He's now the co-founder of Backstage Books, a UK-based underground music-fashion-pop culture press. Spence has written for the *NME*, *The Face*, *i-D*, *Dazed & Confused*, *Arena*, *The Independent*, *The Guardian*, *The Big Issue*, *What's On*, *Q*, *Mojo*, *Japan Times*, *Manchester Evening News*, *Penguin*, *Secker & Warburg*, *Heyne*, *Warner Bros*, *St Martin's Press*, *Constable*, *Omnibus* and *Jawbone* and been published in seven languages. He has lived in Manchester since 1996.

Rolling Stones manager Andrew Loog Oldham was the enfant terrible of Swinging Sixties London, the man who had crafted The Beatles' antithesis. By 1965 he was a millionaire notorious for working every publicity angle for his rising stars but he still felt frustrated by the men in grey suits who controlled the music industry. His solution to that problem was Immediate Records—the UK's first independent label—with a mission statement to wash away those grey men.

What followed was five years of scams, chicanery, sex, drugs, violence and sensational music. Immediate's 'in-house' polymath producers: Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Oldham himself, Jimmy Page and Steve Marriott, attracted a crowd of daring, young British talent, forging the hippest scene in the world.

Yet, following his ousting as Stones manager in 1967, the label itself began to fray at the seams as the drugs and booze clouded Oldham's creative genius and the grey suits quietly took their revenge.

Simon Spence's acclaimed telling of Immediate's rise and fall was first published in 2007 but has now been augmented with explanatory footnotes and even more detail following a further decade's research.

Available Rights

NA English, Audio,
Translation, Dramatic



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